

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of March 29, 2005 is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) filed June 23, 2004 and March 28, 2005 in this application. Although the IDS of June 23, 2004 was submitted well before the outstanding Office Action of March 29, 2005, the Applicants have not yet received an initialed copy of the Form 1449 submitted therewith, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide the initialed copy. In addition, the Examiner is kindly reminded to provide an initialed copy of the Form 1449 submitted with the IDS of March 28, 2005 upon responding to the present amendment.

In view of the Amendment filed November 29, 2004, claims 48-59 were pending and examined in the outstanding Office Action. In this regard, the Examiner rejected claims 48 and 51-54 as being anticipated by the Hidaka reference (Japanese Publication 401077111); and rejected claim 59 as being anticipated by the Miyashita reference (USP 5,243,249). However, the Examiner also indicated that dependent claims 49, 50, and 55-58 contained allowable subject matter. Consequently, the claims have now been amended as indicated above to accept the allowable subject matter.

In particular, independent claim 48 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 49, and dependent claim 49 has been cancelled. Please note that the dependency of the claim 50 has also been amended in view of the cancellation of claim 49. Furthermore, independent claim 53 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 55, and claim 55 has been cancelled. Please note that the dependencies of dependent claims 56 and 58 have also been amended in view of the cancellation of claim 55. Finally, rejected independent claim 59 has been cancelled.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, as well as the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed

the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Shoriki NARITA et al.

By: 

W. Douglas Hahn
Registration No. 44,142
Attorney for Applicants

WDH/ck
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
June 24, 2005